

-18-

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A turbine blade includes an airfoil having an internal cooling circuit with a first flow passage disposed directly behind the leading edge followed by a second flow passage separated therefrom by a corresponding bridge. The bridge includes a row of impingement apertures for cooling the leading edge. The suction sidewall of the airfoil includes a row of diffusion film cooling first holes extending in flow communication with the first passage. The first holes have a compound inclination angle, with a quadrilateral cross section forming a generally teardrop shaped outlet in the convex contour of the suction sidewall.